

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04069 211059Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 IO-13 NEA-10
/101 W

-----211136Z 122256 /14

R 201729Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1499

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4069

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZORES PROBLEM CONTINUES

REF: (A) LISBON 3888 (DTG 161702Z MAY 77), (B) LISBON 3891
(NOTAL), (C) LISBON 3928 (DTG 171723Z MAY 77), (D) LISBON
2966 (DTG 181535Z MAY 77), (E) PONTA DELGADA 178
(DTG 181715Z MAY 77) (NOTAL), (F) PONTA DELGADA 180
(DTG 181815Z MAY 77) (NOTAL)

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04069 211059Z

SUMMARY: A HIGH OFFICIAL OF AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT DESCRIBED
SITUATION IN ISLANDS AS "POWDER KEG" AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT
LISBON WOULD TAKE LAJES QUID. MEANWHILE, CHARGES AND
COUNTER-CHARGES CONTINUED WITH NO SIGN OF AFFAIR DYING
OUT. CURRENT TROUBLED SITUATION AND INCREASING SIGNS OF
LEFTIST LINKS TO SEPARATISTS HAVE LEAD GOP TO PUSH FOR
EARLY CONCLUSION OF BASE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. POWDER KEG; AN UNNAMED HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE AZORES REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION WAS QUOTED MAY 20 AS SAYING THAT AZORES WERE A "REAL POWDER KEY, WHERE A BLOOD BATH MIGHT OCCUR."
2. BASE NEGOTIATIONS: THE SAME SOURCE SAID ABOUT AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS "THAT WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT LISBON'S NEGOTIATING CAPACITY AND FEAR, ABOVE ALL, THAT THE LION'S SHARE WILL GO TO LISBON, WHICH WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE FOR THE AZORES' FUTURE. IF OUR EFFORTS FAIL, WE WILL HOLD THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE AZORES INTO A SECOND TIMOR."
3. CABINET PRONOUNCEMENT: ON MAY 18, THE CABINET "CONDEMNED THE INCIDENTS PROVOKED BY A SEPARATIST MINORITY," AND SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S MAY 15 OFFICIAL NOTE ON THE SUBJECT.
4. MOTA AMARAL RESPONSE: AZORES REGIONAL PRESIDENT RESPONDED BY CLAIMING THAT THE INCIDENTS PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE INTERVENTION OF LISBON. THE REGIONAL SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PSD ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT REPUDIATING PRESIDENT EANES'S COMMUNIQUE AND SAYING IT RESULTS FROM A "MANEUVER" WHICH PRESIDENT BECAME INVOLVED THROUGH "DEFICIENT AND MANIPULATED INFORMATION."
5. EANES'S FEELINGS: DEPTH OF EANES'S FEELING ON THIS ISSUE WAS UNDERLINED BY CDS LEADER FREITAS DO AMARAL IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM. AMARAL DESCRIBED PRESIDENT AS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04069 211059Z

"WHITE WITH RAGE" OVER FLAG INCIDENT, WHEN HE SUMMONED THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER TO 7:30 A.M. MAY 15 MEETING OVER INCIDENT.

6. COMMENT: TROUBLED SITUATION IN AZORES IS NOT FADING. ISSUE IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ONE FOR BOTH SIDES AND DIFFICULT TO CALM DOWN. MORE TROUBLE IS ANTICIPATED JUNE 6, THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUSTING OF THE FELLOW-TRAVELING FORMER GOVERNOR OF PONTA DELGADA. PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE LEFTIST INFILTRATION OF THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT AND PM NOTED IN MAY 17 CONVERSATION WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE THAT GOP HAS INFORMATION ON LINKS BETWEEN LIBYAN CHARGE AND SEPARATISTS. AZORES PLANNING DIRECTOR CUNHA DE OLIVEIRA, WHO HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO FLA, TOLD AID REP MAY 20 THAT FLA NOW HAS OUTSIDE CONNECTIONS INCLUDING LIBYANS AND CUBANS.
7. EAGERNESS OF GOP TO GET MOVING ON LAJES NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF HEIGHTENED CONCERN OVER

SEPARATISTS' ACTIVITIES (REF B). HEAD OF INTER-MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP ON NEGOTIATIONS HAS MADE POINT TO US THAT GOP'S GREATEST PROBLEM IS PARING DOWN AZOREAN DEMANDS. NEXT MEETING OF WORKING GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JUNE. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: SECESSION, CIVIL DISORDERS, AZORES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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